From: westerj@mta7.srv.hcvlny.cv.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 12:33am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

Its no secret that any company (esp one protecting a monopoly) will try
to crush alternatives.

A legal route is one way to guarantee lawyers will respond best to those
with the deepest pockets.

Rather, the US govt spends billions on desktop software. Why not require
document formats that
encourage and leverage portability? This would provide ways for other
software technologies to
compete so we all win.

The lynchpin of Microsofts domination has always been word and excel.
While they are pretty good apps,
their doc formats make it downright IMPOSSIBLE to interoperate with any
other platform or doc formatting
package.

So, instead of beating them legally, the next rfq might include a riser
of interoperability which
would promote competition rather than just going with what MS thinks
they need.

The solution proposed by RedHat is a little nutty, but, its less
ludicrous than MS's solution where they
only seek to strength their grip on the academics.

The more we all use Linux, the better we are all off.

The internet was spawned outside the walls of MS, and the whole PLANET
is now networked because
TCP/IP is a terrific standard that we all leverage. Why shouldnt doc
formats also have similar
opportunity for standardization.

The US Govt has the perfect oppty to leverage itself as a giant customer
and it would help us all out.
We all want to compete, but can't due to the leveraging of the Desktop
OS against the Desktop application
suite that enslaves us all to Mr Gates. Please choose your remedy very
carefully.

Thanks very much

Sincerely,

John Westerdale

Inspire Growth in Self and Others